



MEMORANDUM

Community Development Department

DATE: February 19, 2015

TO: Council Neighborhoods Committee

FROM: Linda Lauzze, Administrative and Neighborhood Services Manager

SUBJECT: 2015 Council Neighborhoods Committee Work Plan

BACKGROUND

At the first 2015 Council Neighborhoods Committee (CNC) meeting, the Committee will be adopting a work plan and setting a schedule for the year's activities. The primary work of the CNC this year will be three neighborhood meetings, the Neighborhood Grant Program, and hosting a neighborhood networking event.

Regular CNC meetings are typically held on the third Thursdays of the month in the Plaza Conference Room and start at 6:30 p.m. The CNC typically does not hold a regular meeting every month, since some months there are no agenda items or there is a neighborhood meeting instead. Neighborhood meetings usually are scheduled for Thursday nights from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. and can be held any week of the month.

Dates for the three neighborhood meetings will be set at the February 19 meeting. Committee members are requested to bring their appointment calendars to check your availability when scheduling the neighborhood meetings. Staff will contact the School Districts after the CNC selects the neighborhood meeting dates to confirm the availability of meeting rooms. For meetings in the fall, it is not always possible to reserve rooms with the School Districts until school resumes in late summer, so there is a chance that fall meeting dates may change.

CNC NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

The CNC holds neighborhood meetings throughout Mountain View and the community response has been genuinely appreciative. Three neighborhood meetings are held each year and are rotated among six neighborhood areas, as shown on the attached map. Each neighborhood area has a meeting every two years. A neighborhood meeting for mobile home park residents is held every other year, resulting in four neighborhood meetings that year. Since a mobile home park meeting

took place last year, there will not be a mobile home park meeting in 2015. The 2015 neighborhood meetings are with the following areas. A tentative meeting date is listed for each area.

- Central Neighborhoods Area – April 16
- Moffett/Whisman Road Neighborhood Area – May 21
- Springer/Cuesta/Phyllis Neighborhood Area – October 15

Neighborhood meetings are generally spaced at least a month apart, so there is adequate time for meeting preparation and notification. The suggested meeting dates have been identified after considering school schedules, religious holidays, Committee member's schedules and similar factors.

Staff from seven City departments participate and respond to questions at the neighborhood meetings. Those questions that cannot be fully answered at the meeting will be answered in a written follow-up report sent to everyone attending the meeting. Several years ago, the CNC decided to begin neighborhood meetings by providing an update on major projects and improvements in the neighborhood. The CNC update notes are also provided as a handout for residents.

NEIGHBORHOOD GRANT PROGRAM

The Neighborhood Grant Program has been successful in supporting existing neighborhood associations and encouraging new ones. Neighborhood grants have helped form seven new neighborhood associations in Mountain View since the program began in 1999. Last year, 14 neighborhood grants were awarded by the CNC for a total of \$16,567. The number of applications last year was down substantially from the 19 grant applications submitted in 2013.

When the program began, the budget for neighborhood grants was \$10,000 annually. The neighborhood grant budget was increased to \$20,000 for FY 2011-12 and all of the available grant funds were used that year. The CNC requested and the Council approved an increase in the annual neighborhood grant budget to \$30,000 starting in FY 2012-13. The budget was increased to have enough funding to accommodate new neighborhood groups applying for grants.

Currently, neighborhood grants are limited to a maximum of \$6.00 per household up to a maximum of \$1,700 per neighborhood group. New groups applying for the first time

are eligible for a \$100 bonus. Last year, the CNC raised the maximum grant per neighborhood group from \$1,500 to \$1,700 and the maximum grant per household from \$3.00 to \$6.00. The grant per household had been previously reduced from \$10.00 to \$3.00, which significantly reduced the grant funding for small neighborhood groups. Two small neighborhood groups did not apply for grants in 2014.

Neighborhood Grant requests are considered at the regular CNC meeting in June to coordinate with the start of the new fiscal year on July 1. This year due to the vacation schedule of a CNC member, it is suggested the neighborhood grant meeting be set for Thursday, June 11.

NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERS NETWORKING EVENT

The CNC networking event began as an informal gathering hosted by the CNC at Le Boulanger. The original intention was to provide an opportunity for the community's neighborhood association leaders to network with each other and share information about successes and challenges in their neighborhoods. For the past few years, the CNC has held the neighborhood networking event in conjunction with the neighborhood grant meeting. This has resulted in better participation and has encouraged neighborhoods applying for grants to attend the networking event and the CNC meeting.

The networking event will include a buffet dinner prior to the June 11 meeting on neighborhood grants. Last year, instead of a formal presentation after dinner, each neighborhood group was asked to speak briefly about their association activities and information they wanted to share with the group. This was an effective venue for neighborhood leaders getting to know each other and sharing information. The Committee can discuss whether to continue this format or discuss possible presentations for the next networking event.

SUMMARY

This first meeting of the year is an opportunity for Committee members to ask questions, discuss the CNC's programs and activities, and set the schedule for 2015. The following is a summary of the draft 2015 calendar. All of these meetings take place on Thursdays. The list includes a proposed date for the CNC's end of the year wrap-up meeting in November.

- Central Neighborhoods Area - April 16
- Moffett/Whisman Road Neighborhood Area - May 21

- Neighborhood Grant Regular Meeting/Networking Event – June 11
- Springer/Cuesta/Phyllis Neighborhood Area – October 15
- CNC Work Plan Review – November 12

Prepared by:

Linda Lauzze
Administrative and Neighborhood Services Manager

Attachments: Neighborhood Meeting Areas Map